



## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

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JESSE WHITE • Secretary of State

Dear Religious Leader,

Once again, we are calling on religious organizations and faith-based communities to join us as we celebrate National Donor Sabbath during the weekend of Nov. 11-13, 2022. On behalf of the more than 4,000 people who are waiting for lifesaving organ transplants in Illinois, I invite you and your congregation to help raise awareness about organ and tissue donation.

The faith community makes a significant and lasting difference in the lives of countless individuals. Your support of organ and tissue donation during National Donor Sabbath is an opportunity to communicate your faith's stance on this important topic. During the weekend of observance, we ask you to encourage members of your congregation to join the Illinois Secretary of State's Organ/Tissue Donor Registry.

Organ and tissue donation is a personal and professional issue for me. My sister, Doris Ivy, received a kidney transplant in 1991 after waiting for more than three years. She was able to have a second chance at life because of a generous donor family. For that, our family is eternally grateful. Sadly, not everyone is so fortunate. Last year, approximately 300 Illinoisans died while waiting for a transplant. By recognizing the importance of donation, you and your congregation can help change this statistic.

Perhaps a member of your congregation has had experience with transplantation or organ and tissue donation. If so, I hope you will offer them an opportunity to share their experience during National Donor Sabbath.

Thank you for considering participating in this year's National Donor Sabbath observance. If you have any questions, please contact Lauren Gilbert at 217-558-1322, [LGilbert@ilsos.gov](mailto:LGilbert@ilsos.gov) or visit our website at [www.LifeGoesOn.com](http://www.LifeGoesOn.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jesse White".

Jesse White  
Illinois Secretary of State